

HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP
JAMES E. CLYBURN
THE DAILY WHIPLINE

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
9:00 a.m. For Morning Hour 10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business Unlimited "One-minutes" Per Side	Last Vote: 10:00 p.m.

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **Suspension Bills:** Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed
1. **H.Con.Res. 162** - Expressing the sense of Congress that Congress and the President should increase basic pay for members of the Armed Forces (*Rep. Patrick Murphy – Armed Services*)
 2. **H.R. 3997** - The "Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2007" (*Rep. Rangel – Ways and Means*)
 3. **H.Res. 787** - Expressing the support and sympathy of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of the tragic fire that occurred in Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina, on October 28, 2007 (*Rep. Clyburn – Oversight and Government Reform*)
 4. **H.Res. 728** – Expressing the support and sympathy of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of the devastating flooding that occurred across many parts of Ohio in August 2007 and commending the communities, volunteer organizations, churches and emergency response agencies for their continuing work to restore the affected areas across the state (*Rep. Jordan – Oversight and Government Reform*)
 5. **H.Res. 782** - Expressing the sense of the House with respect to the Boston Red Sox victory in the 2007 Major League Baseball World Series (*Rep. Capuano – Oversight and Government Reform*)
 6. **H.R. 1119** – Purple Heart Family Equity Act of 2007 (*Rep. Susan Davis – Judiciary*)

7. **H.R. 2884** - Kendell Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act (*Rep. Cummings – Judiciary*)
8. **H.R. 3866** - Small Business Programs Act of 2007 (*Rep. Velazquez – Small Business*)
9. **H.R. 3495** – Kids in Disasters Well-being, Safety, and Health Act of 2007 (*Rep. Corrine Brown (FL) – Transportation and Infrastructure*)
10. **S. 2265** - A bill to extend the existing provisions regarding the eligibility for essential air service subsidies through fiscal year 2008 (*Sen. Thune – Transportation and Infrastructure*)

- **Vote on Overriding the President's Veto of H.R. 1495 Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Rep. Oberstar-Transportation and Infrastructure):** Debate on the measure will be managed by Rep. Johnson (D-TX) and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate
 - Vote on overriding the President's Veto of H.R. 1495. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on overriding the President's veto.**
- **H. Res. 794–Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3043 – Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 – Conference Report (Rep. Hastings (FL) –Rules):** The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. The rule provides that a motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3688 pursuant to section 151 of the Trade Act of 1974 shall be in order only if offered by the Majority Leader or his designee. The rule provides that, upon receipt of a message from the Senate transmitting H.R. 3043, with a Senate amendment thereto, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations may move that the House concur in the Senate amendment, that such motion shall be considered as read and debatable for one hour, and that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Hastings (FL) and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
- **H.R. 3043 – Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 – Conference Report (Rep. Obey-Appropriations):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the Conference Report will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. David Obey, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the Conference Report.

- Vote on adoption of the Conference Report. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the Conference Report.**
- **Postponed Suspension Votes:** At some point today, the House will take recorded votes on the following bills, which were debated on Monday:
 1. **H.Res. 379** - Welcoming French President Nicola Sarkozy to the United States (*Rep. Poe - Foreign Affairs*)
 2. **H.Con.Res. 236** - Recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino (*Rep. Dreier – Foreign Affairs*)

Bill Summary and Key Issues

Conference Report for H.R. 3043 – Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008

The Conference Report Priorities Package includes the 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill and the 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. These bills maintain our commitments to our veterans and invest in domestic priorities that will increase the strength of this nation.

This package keeps our commitment to our veterans with the largest single increase in the 77-year history of the Department of Veterans Affairs. It also invests in critical domestic priorities in the Labor, Health and Education bill with major investments into K 12 education, college affordability, increasing access to quality healthcare, medical research, worker protection and job training programs.

Both components of this package passed the House and Senate with strong bi-partisan support.

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs

\$64.7 billion, \$15 billion above 2007 and \$4 billion above the President's budget request.

Department of Veteran's Affairs: \$43.1 billion, \$3.7 billion over the President's budget request for veterans' medical care, claims processing personnel, and facility improvements.

- **Veterans' Health Care:** \$37.2 billion, \$2.6 billion over the President's budget request for VA hospitals and clinics, and research into conditions such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which are among the most common problems facing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. In 2008, the VA will treat 5.8 million patients, including about 263,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.
- **Claims Processors:** \$124.2 million to provide 1800 new claims processors to address the 400,000 benefit claims backlog.

Military Construction: \$21.5 billion, \$306 million above the President's budget request including \$129 million to construct 16 new child development centers.

- **Guard and Reserve:** \$ 1.1 billion, \$367 million above the President's budget request.

Labor, Health and Education

\$150.7 billion, \$6.2 billion above 2007 and \$9.8 billion above the President's budget request.

Education: \$60.7 billion, \$4.5 billion above the President's budget request, to improve education with targeted investments to:

- **Support No Child Left Behind** programs that improve K-12 education such as Title I grants to help low-income kids, teacher quality efforts, and after school programs;
- **Educate kids with disabilities** with IDEA Grants; and
- **Help families pay for college** with Pell Grants and other higher education initiatives.

Labor: \$12 billion, \$1 billion over the President's budget request, rejecting the President's cuts and making important investments in:

- **Job training** programs including adult, youth, and dislocated worker training and Job Corps; and
- **Worker protection** efforts at the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Health and Human Services: \$68.5 billion, \$5.3 billion over the President's budget request for targeted efforts including:

- **Improving Healthcare** through programs like Community Health Care centers to improve healthcare access, and programs to train nurses and other healthcare professionals;
- **Medical Research** at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study diseases like diabetes, cancer, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's;
- **Fighting Poverty** with Community Service Block Grants and Social Services Block Grants;
- **Helping kids** with Head Start;
- **Improving public health** with work done at the Centers for Disease Control; and
- **Helping families facing rising energy prices** with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Social Security Administration (SSA): \$9.9 billion, \$576 million above the President's request, helping to reduce the disability claims backlog.

Quote of the Day

"The greatest height of heroism to which an individual, like a people, can attain is to know how to face ridicule." – Miguel De Unamuno